

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 12, 14 and 15 are amended and claim 11 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Applicant acknowledges the withdrawal of the previous grounds of rejection in favor of new grounds.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 7-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,512,510 to Maeda. Additionally, claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maeda. Finally, claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maeda in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 14 and 15 are amended to incorporate the features of canceled claim 11. These claims recite, *inter alia*, a strain sensor substrate including: (1) a strain detecting substrate section on which the stick member and the strain sensors are disposed; (2) a signal-processing substrate section for signal-processing the strain amount detected by the strain detecting substrate section; and (3) a connecting substrate section that is narrower in width than the strain detecting substrate section and the signal processing substrate section. Moreover, the strain detecting substrate section, the signal processing substrate section, and the connecting substrate section are integrally formed. This is supported, for example, by Fig. 1 and page 7, line 16 to page 8, line 11. In particular, see, for example, sensor substrate 1 in flat board form, strain detecting substrate section 3 having strain gauges 10 and signal processing substrate section 4 having processing circuitry thereon, and connecting substrate section 1b having printed wiring 17.

This structure of having integral strain detecting, processing and connecting sections overcomes the sensing problems and manufacturing problems discussed in Applicant's background at page 1, line 23 to page 2, line 20.

Maeda fails to teach, disclose or suggest such features. Maeda teaches a mounting member 12 in the form of a flat metal plate that receives control member 2 (stick). A separate flexible substrate 8 is bonded to the mounting member. Then, strain gauges 9a-d are mounted on the flexible substrate 8. Thus, the Maeda pointing device is constructed of multiple separate elements and suffers from the problems described in Applicant's Background.

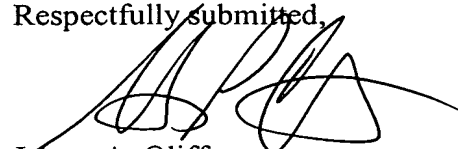
Moreover, in making the rejection, the Office Action alleges that strain gauges 9a-d and connection conductors 10 form a signal processing substrate section. However, strain gauges 9a-d must be part of the strain detecting section because no other elements can provide the sensing function. As such, the Office Action fails to make a *prima facie* case of anticipation or obviousness.

For the foregoing reasons, because Maeda fails to teach, disclose or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1, 14 and 15, or even appreciate the problems solved by such features, these claims and claims dependent therefrom are neither anticipated by nor obvious from Maeda. The AIPA fails to overcome the deficiencies of Maeda. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 and 12-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Stephen P. Catlin
Registration No. 36,101

JAO:SPC/jth

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: June 16, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--